



Region IV MRC Update

April, 2009

2009 Integrated Training Summit Update

The 2009 Integrated Training Summit is quickly approaching, and it's a great time for attendees to start planning their conference activities. Information on MRC and ESAR-VHP sessions was distributed on the MRC Listserv, and will be distributed to attendees at the conference. MRC attendees are welcome to participate in any of the open sessions, but the MRC/ESAR-VHP "At-a-Glance" may be helpful in finding the most relevant sessions from among the many options. Some special highlights of the 2009 Integrated Training Summit include:

Weekend Workshops:

- MRC-TRAIN: The Basics (4/4, 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.)
- MRC New Leader Workshop (4/5, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

MRC Recognition and Networking Reception (4/5, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.)

Breakfast/Lunch Plenary Sessions:

- OCVMRC Director Welcome/Acting Deputy Surgeon General Address
- ESAR-VHP: An Update and Successful State Models of Integration/Coordination of Local Volunteer Efforts
- Volunteerism in Response to Emergencies: Critical Issues of Law and Policy
- MRC Deployment Update

Concurrent Sessions on:

- Coordinated Activities
- Leadership Skills, Operational Support and Sustainability
- MRC/ESAR-VHP Special Topics
- Volunteer Management
- ...and more!

Conference registration is now closed. More information is available at

<http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/2009TrainingSummit>

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

National Volunteer Week: “Celebrating People In Action”

Every year in April, volunteer organizations across the country take the time to celebrate their volunteers. While it is important that we recognize our volunteers' contributions every day, this is a special opportunity to celebrate the spirit of service that makes our work possible. Volunteers are at the heart of Medical Reserve Corps, and without them, the program would not exist. Please be sure to take the time, this month and throughout the year, to recognize your volunteers' contributions to the health and safety of your communities. Recognition efforts do not have to be expensive. Ideas for low-cost volunteer recognition activities are available at [Energize, Inc.](#) and the [Points of Light Foundation](#). There are also opportunities for your volunteers to earn [The Presidential Volunteer Service Award](#). Your state's Commission on Volunteer Service, Association of Volunteer Administrators, Citizen Corps Council or Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives may also provide state-specific volunteer awards. If you participate in volunteer recognition activities, please be sure to report them in your unit profile!



Youth Engaged in Service – from “No, We Can’t” to YES!

Did you know that more than half of American teenagers say that they have volunteered within the past twelve months? That means more youth are volunteering than adults! Although Medical Reserve Corps units frequently face age restrictions for clinical and response activities, there are other ways to engage youth in the mission of your MRC. Jr. High and High School students can get involved in health education and preparedness activities. For instance, High School students can help teach hand washing to elementary school students. Students of every age can take the message of family preparedness home to their parents. Youth are a key component in community resilience.

For guidance and tools for successfully engaging youth, visit the Youth Engaged in Service website: <http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/yes/index.html>. Also, don't forget our national-level partnership with the Health Occupations Students of America, a great partner for engaging youth in health education and preparedness activities: <http://www.hosa.org/>

“All too often, youth today are viewed as the recipients of volunteer services rather than assets who – through their own service to communities – can transform their lives and those of their peers, family, and neighbors. Youth offer unique perspectives, ideas, peer connections, and incredible energy – all things we need to make our communities stronger.”

- From the Youth Engaged in Service website, a service of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

Upcoming Events of Interest

- April 4-8, Dallas, TX – **2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit**, <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/2009TrainingSummit>
- April 15, 2 p.m. ET - **Webinar to Kick Off National Preparedness Month (NPM) 2009**
- April 19-25, **National Volunteer Week**
<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/>
- June 22-24, San Francisco, CA - **National Conference on Volunteering and Service** <http://www.volunteeringandservice.org/>

A List of Archived Webcasts is available here:

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/phtn/calendar.asp#Apr09>

Kentucky Response to the Winter Storms



*Damage from the KY Winter Storm
– Photo courtesy of FEMA Photo Library*

Beginning on January 27, a winter storm swept through Kentucky, leaving a path of damage in its wake that eventually led to one hundred counties receiving emergency declarations from FEMA. The storm caused the largest power outage in the state's history, with well over half a million homes without power. Medical Reserve Corps volunteers assisted with shelters across the

state, both in their own counties and in support of other counties. Numbers are still

being reported, but it appears that volunteers gave over two thousand hours of service in response to the storm. At least sixteen MRC units in Kentucky were active in the aftermath of the storm. Good work, Kentucky MRC Units!

Useful Tools and Information Online

Just a reminder: There is a collection of websites that may be useful to MRC Unit Coordinators available at: <http://www.diigo.com/profile/region4mrc> (note the new home). Recent additions include:

- [Radiation Event Medical Management](#)
- [Childhood Overweight and Obesity Prevention Initiative](#)
- [Amanda Ripley: Blog](#)
- [Advanced Practice Centers Request for Proposals](#)

For regular public health and emergency preparedness updates, check out the [Region IV News Updates](#)

Upcoming Health Observances

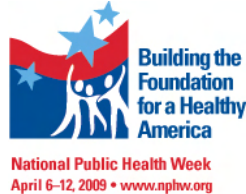
April is National Donate Life Month

<http://www.organdonor.gov/>

April is Minority Health Month

<http://www.omhrc.gov/templates/browse.aspx?lvl=2&lvlid=182>

April 6-12 is National Public Health Week



<http://www.nphw.org/nphw09/default.htm>

April 19-25 is National Volunteer Week

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/>

May is Mental Health Month

<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/may>

May 6-12 is National Nurses Week

<http://www.nursingworld.org/HomepageCategory/UpcomingEvents/NNW-2009.aspx>

May 10-16 is National Women's Health Week



<http://www.womenshealth.gov/whw>

May 17-23 is National Emergency Medical Services Week

<http://www.acep.org/practres.aspx?id=30212>

Regional Coordinator Contact Information

Elizabeth H. Fitch
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center – DHHS
61 Forsyth St, SW
Suite 5B95
Atlanta, GA 30303

Office: (404) 562-4276
Fax: (404) 562-7899
Cell (try office first): (404) 275-9169
Elizabeth.fitch@hhs.gov

*Don't forget to regularly visit the [National MRC Website](#):
sponsored by the [Office of the Surgeon General](#)
Medical Reserve Corps is a partner program with [Citizen Corps](#)*